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CIA REPORTER

LOUISVILLE, KY. (AP) -- A MAN HIRED AS A REPORTER BY THE LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL IN 1964 MAY HAVE BEEN A CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY UNDERCOVER AGENT, THE NEWSPAPER SAID TODAY IN A COPYRIGHTED STORY.

ROBERT W. CAMPBELL, NOW BELIEVED TO BE LIVING IN MCLEARN, VA., WAS NAMED BY THE NEWSPAPER AS THE MAN IT SAYS WAS HIRED AS A REPORTER IN DECEMBER, 1964, AND WORKED THERE UNTIL MARCH, 1965.

ITS INVESTIGATION INDICATED CAMPBELL APPARENTLY HAS BEEN A CIA AGENT SINCE SEPTEMBER, 1959, THE NEWSPAPER SAID.

THE COURIER JOURNAL SAID THE FOLLOWING IN TODAY'S STORY:

CAMPBELL WAS HIRED BY THEN COURIER-JOURNAL AND LOUISVILLE TIMES EXECUTIVE EDITOR NORMAN ISAACS, NOW PRESIDENT-PUBLISHER OF THE WILMINGTON, DEL., NEWS AND JOURNAL.

FORMER COURIER-JOURNAL MANAGING EDITOR BENJAMIN REEVES SAID ISAACS TOLD HIM IN 1964 THAT CAMPBELL WAS HIRED AT THE REQUEST OF THE CIA. ISAACS HAS DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF AN ALLEGED CIA CONNECTION IN HIS HIRING OF CAMPBELL. REEVES IS NOW ON THE STAFF OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR.

ACCORDING TO THE COURIER-JOURNAL INVESTIGATION, ISAACS RECEIVED A LETTER, DATED OCT. 23, 1964, FROM HERMAN BULFORD, OF ECONOMIC NEWS DISTRIBUTORS, A DALLAS-BASED FIRM.

THE LETTER IDENTIFIED CAMPBELL AS ONE OF ITS "JUNIOR FEATURE WRITERS" AND A LINGUIST WHO HAD SPENT THREE YEARS IN KENYA STUDYING THE COUNTRY'S LANGUAGE AND HISTORY.

THE NEWSPAPER'S INVESTIGATION CONCLUDES THAT THE ECONOMIC NEWS DISTRIBUTORS WAS A PHONY OPERATION.

THE LETTER ASKED THAT CAMPBELL BE HIRED FOR A SHORT TIME SO THAT HE COULD BECOME FAMILIAR WITH NEWSPAPERING. BULFORD'S LETTER SAID CAMPBELL HAD PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN NEWSPAPER WORK AND HAD DEMONSTRATED "DISTINCT WRITING ABILITY."

PERSONS WHO WORKED WITH CAMPBELL AT THE LOUISVILLE NEWSPAPER RECALLED THAT HE HAD LITTLE OR NO TALENT FOR WRITING, AND COULD BARELY TYPE.

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"IN RETROSPECT, THERE WAS SOMETHING VERY STRANGE ABOUT THE WHOLE THING," SAID JIM DRISKOLL, A NEWS EXECUTIVE WITH THE SUN NEWSPAPERS IN OMAHA, NEB., AND AN ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR AT THE COURIER-JOURNAL IN 1964.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL TODAY QUOTED CIA SPOKESMAN ANGUS THUERMER AS SAYING, WHEN ASKED TO CONFIRM OR DENY CAMPBELL'S ALLEGED CONNECTION WITH THE AGENCY, "WE JUST CAN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT ALLEGATIONS OF NEWSMEN DOING THIS, THAT OR THE OTHER."

A REPORTER FOR THE NEWSPAPER ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT CAMPBELL AT HIS VIRGINIA HOME, ONLY FIVE MINUTES AWAY FROM CIA HEADQUARTERS AT LANGLEY, VA.

CAMPBELL'S WIFE ANSWERED THE DOOR AND REFUSED TO ALLOW THE REPORTER TO TALK WITH CAMPBELL.

WHEN ASKED IF HER HUSBAND WAS A CIA AGENT, MRS. CAMPBELL SAID "IF HE WAS, I WOULDN'T TELL IT TO YOU."

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